



F-22 Newsletter



March 2001

The Initial F-22 Operational Wing Beddown Proposal

The U.S. Congress determined the need to provide the U.S. Air Force with a next-generation fighter to replace and supplement the aging F-15C fleet and to ensure air dominance well into the 21st Century.

- The proposed action is to establish (beddown) the first Operational Wing of F-22 fighter aircraft at Langley AFB in Virginia.
- There are four alternative locations for the Initial F-22 Operational Wing beddown:
 - Eglin AFB, Florida
 - Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
 - Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
 - Tyndall AFB, Florida
- The beddown would involve basing 72 primary F-22 aircraft.
- The beddown would require no changes to current military airspace boundaries.

What's Inside this Newsletter?

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- How Resources Are Analyzed in the Draft EIS
- The Importance of Public Involvement
- Reviewing and Commenting on the Draft EIS
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Keeping You Informed and Involved

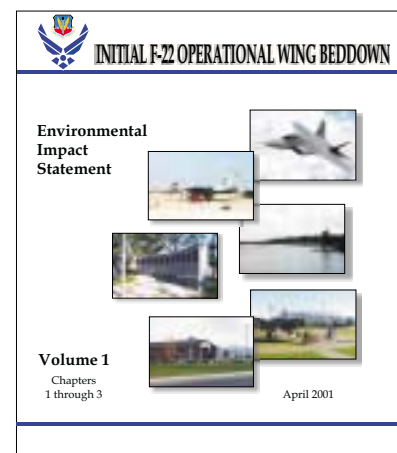
This newsletter has been prepared to keep you informed about the Initial F-22 Operational Wing Beddown Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will provide the Air Force with an understanding of the potential environmental consequences associated with the beddown of the first Operational Wing of 72 F-22 fighter aircraft. The Draft EIS will be distributed in late April 2001.

The first newsletter sent in January discussed the contents of the Draft EIS, the results of scoping, and several of the primary concerns expressed during the scoping process. This newsletter describes the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, the timeline, the approach taken for resource analysis in the Draft EIS, the public hearings, and how to comment on the Draft EIS.

The National Environmental Policy Act Process

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, directs federal agencies to consider environmental factors in their decisions and guides the preparation of the EIS. NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations require federal agencies to

- consider all appropriate environmental factors when making decisions;
- involve the potentially affected and interested public (individuals, interest groups, tribal governments, and local, state, and federal agencies) early in the environmental analysis process;
- assess reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that will avoid or minimize adverse affects on the quality of the natural and human environment.
- write environmental documents in plain language for the benefit of the public and the decision maker.



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Continued from page 1.

In addition to complying with the guidelines described on page 1, the Air Force further adheres to the stringent requirements of its own environmental impact analysis process. This ensures that, when the Air Force undertakes a major action, decision makers will be provided the appropriate level of environmental analysis, such as will be contained in the Draft EIS for the Initial F-22 Operational Wing Beddown.

Studying the Resources

NEPA requires focused analyses of the areas and resources, such as airspace or socioeconomics, that are potentially affected by the proposed action and a no-action alternative. An EIS also should consider, but not analyze in detail, those areas or resources not potentially affected. In so doing, an EIS should not be encyclopedic. These overarching NEPA principles guided the focus on environmental resource analysis in the Draft EIS. To define the affected area and environmental resources, the Air Force obtained inputs through the scoping process and

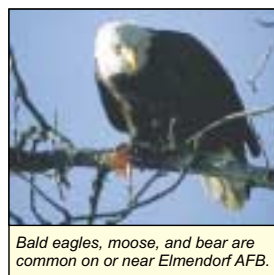
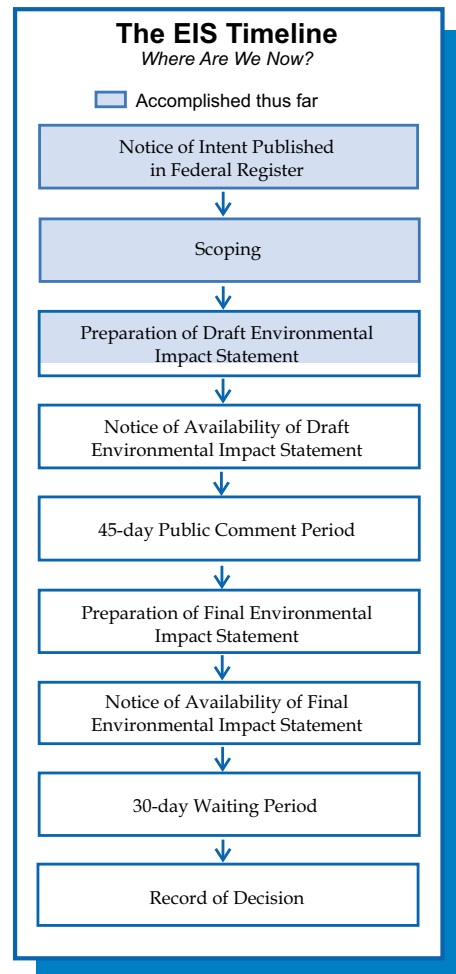
- identified the types and location of all elements (such as construction and flight operations) involved in the proposed action and each of the four alternatives;
- determined the possible interaction of these elements with the resources in potentially affected locations;
- correlated the issues raised in scoping to the potentially affected locations and resources; and
- assessed whether, how, and to what degree the resources may be affected

Combined, the affected areas and affected resources comprise the affected environment for the proposed action and four basing alternatives. Seventeen environmental resource categories were placed into five resource groups and evaluated in the Draft EIS.

The Draft EIS also analyzes a no-action alternative, where no beddown of the Initial F-22 Operational Wing would occur at one of the proposed bases at this time.

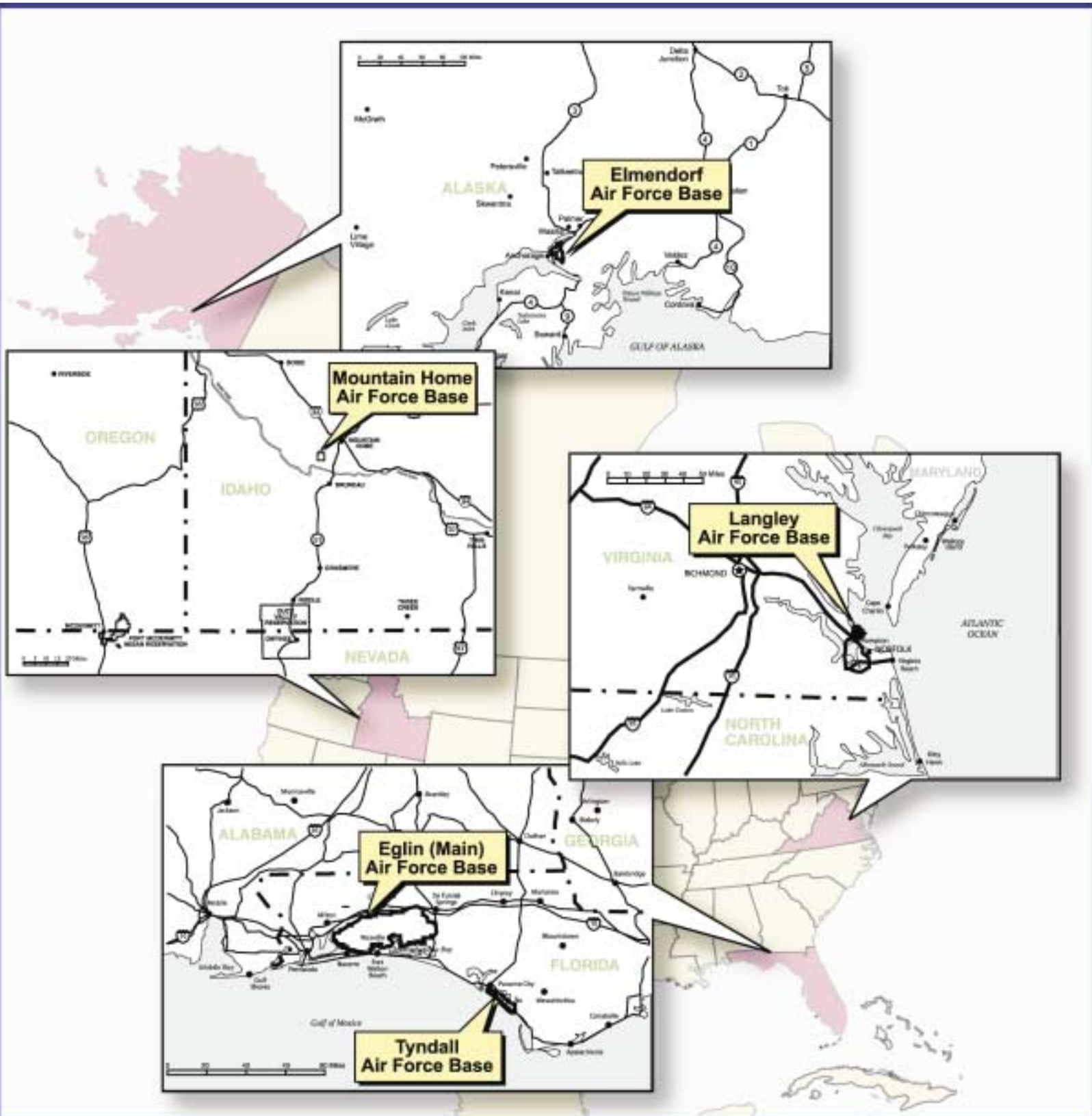
No-action is, in fact, a continuation of ongoing base activities and provides a baseline from which to identify potential environmental consequences when compared with the proposed action or other alternatives.

In addition, the Draft EIS evaluates cumulative effects and irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources.





Proposed Action and Four Basing Alternatives





Your Involvement is important

The environmental impact analysis process provides numerous opportunities for public input and involvement. Many of you who are receiving this newsletter are on the



mailing list because you attended one or more scoping meetings and/or submitted comments during the scoping phase. At that point, you became part of the process and we appreciate your involvement.

This environmental process began when the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the Initial F-22 Operational Wing Beddown was published in the *Federal Register* on March 3, 2000. Important events that have been completed or will occur include:

- five Phase-One scoping meetings held in March and April 2000 - one meeting in a community near each of the proposed basing locations;
- twenty-eight Phase-Two scoping meetings held from June to November 2000 to gather community-specific information regarding the proposed beddown;
- distribution of the Initial F-22 Operational Wing Beddown Draft EIS in late April 2001;
- public hearings, currently being planned for May 2001;
- distribution of the Final EIS; and
- announcement of the Air Force's Record of Decision.

The goal of the comment period and associated public hearings is to give you an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS. This input could address any inconsistencies and correct any mistakes you might have found in the document. These comments will then



become part of the official record included in the Final EIS. Your comments will ensure that the Air Force decision makers benefit from your knowledge and are aware of your concerns about the environmental analysis for this Draft EIS. Comments can be provided in various ways.

1. You can submit written comments anytime during the public review/comment period, which begins April 27, 2001 (the day the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS appears in the *Federal Register*) and ends on June 10, 2001 (a 45-day period). Your written comments should be sent to:

Ms. Brenda Cook, F-22 EIS Project Manager
HQ ACC/CEVP
129 Andrews Street, Suite 102
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

2. You can attend one of the 23 public hearings (see page 6 for the schedule) where you will be able to provide oral and/or written comments.

Please note: Comments will be published in the Final EIS. Please do not include your personal information (such as addresses or phone numbers) if you would object to having it printed in the Final EIS. Providing this information will be considered consent to publish it.

Reviewing and Commenting on the Draft EIS

Many of you requested a hard copy or CD (compact disc) of the Draft EIS, which will be mailed soon. Once you receive the document (a two-volume set), you can become part of the review team. How can you be an effective review team member? That's easy - by reading the Draft EIS, by attending one of the public hearings, and/or by expressing your thoughts about the Draft EIS through written comments.

Does the Air Force Read All the Comments It Receives?

Yes. Your comments are important and the Air Force reads all of them; however, the more effective comments are those that directly relate and are specific to the contents and analyses presented in the Draft EIS. Here are some tips on how to make your comments more useful and effective.



Public Hearing Dates, Times, and Locations

Idaho

May 15, Tuesday – Twin Falls
Doors Open – 6:30 pm
Air Force Presentation – 7:00 pm
College of Southern Idaho, Taylor Admin.
Bldg., Rooms 276 & 277

May 16, Wednesday – Duck Valley
(Limited to Tribal Members Only)
Doors Open – 10:00 am
Air Force Presentation – 10:30 am
Owyhee Human Development Center

May 16, Wednesday – Mountain Home
Doors Open – 6:30 pm
Air Force Presentation – 7:00 pm
American Legion Hall
515 East 2nd South

May 17, Thursday – Boise
Doors Open – 6:30 pm
Air Force Presentation – 7:00 pm
White Pine Elementary School
401 E. Linden

Florida

May 21, Monday – Panama City
Doors Open – 6:30 pm
Air Force Presentation – 7:00 pm
Gulf Coast Community College
Conference Ctr., 2nd Floor, Student Union
Bldg., 5230 W. Highway 98

May 22, Tuesday – Fort Walton Beach
Doors Open – 6:30 pm
Air Force Presentation – 7:00 pm
UWF, Fort Walton Beach Campus/OWCC
1170 Martin Luther King, Blvd.

Virginia

May 24, Thursday – Hampton
Doors Open – 6:30 pm
Air Force Presentation – 7:00 pm
Thomas Nelson Community College,
Moore Hall, 99 Thomas Nelson Drive

May 29, Tuesday – Farmville
Doors Open – 6:30 pm
Air Force Presentation – 7:00 pm
Train Station, 510 W. 3rd Street

Alaska

May 14, Monday – Anchorage
Doors Open – 6:30 pm
Air Force Presentation – 7:00 pm
Elks Anchorage Lodge
717 W. 3rd Avenue

May 15, Tuesday – Sleetmute
Doors Open – 3:00 pm
Air Force Presentation – 3:30 pm
Jack Egnaty Sr. School

May 16, Wednesday – Galena
Doors Open – 6:00 pm
Air Force Presentation – 6:30 pm
Galena School Library

May 17, Thursday – Fort Yukon
Doors Open – 6:00 pm
Air Force Presentation – 6:30 pm
Native Village of Fort Yukon

May 21, Monday – Central
Doors Open – 6:00 pm
Air Force Presentation – 6:30 pm
Far North School Cafeteria

May 23, Wednesday – Delta Junction
Doors Open – 6:30 pm
Air Force Presentation – 7:00 pm
Community Center
2288 Deborah Street

May 29, Tuesday – Wasilla
Doors Open – 6:30 pm
Air Force Presentation – 7:00 pm
Best Western Lake Lucille
1300 W. Lake Lucille Dr.

May 30, Wednesday – Dillingham
Doors Open – 6:00 pm
Air Force Presentation – 6:30 pm
City Council Chambers
141 Main Street

May 15, Tuesday – Lime Village
Doors Open – 10:00 am
Air Force Presentation – 10:30 am
Community Center

May 16, Wednesday – McGrath
Doors Open – 1:00 pm
Air Force Presentation – 1:30 pm
McGrath City Hall

May 17, Thursday – Chalkyitsik
Doors Open – 1:00 pm
Air Force Presentation – 1:30 pm
Community Hall

May 21, Monday – Eagle
Doors Open – 1:00 pm
Air Force Presentation – 1:30 pm
Eagle School Gym

May 22, Tuesday – Fairbanks
Doors Open – 6:30 pm
Air Force Presentation – 7:00 pm
Copper Room, Princess Hotel
4477 Pikes Landing Road

May 24, Thursday – Talkeetna
Doors Open – 6:30 pm
Air Force Presentation – 7:00 pm
Talkeetna Elementary School
Mile 14, Talkeetna Spur Road
(Main Street)

May 30, Wednesday – King Salmon
Doors Open – 1:00 pm
Air Force Presentation – 1:30 pm
King Salmon Airbase Composite
Facility, Building 703

What If You Can't Attend a Public Hearing?

We still want to hear from you. Written comments that are mailed to us are just as important as oral or written comments submitted at the public hearings. You can mail your comments to the address shown on page 4.



Where Can You Find a Copy of the Draft EIS?

If you want to review the Draft EIS but did not order your own copy, the list on this page shows the many locations that will have the document once it is completed and mailed. The Draft EIS will also be placed on the Air Force Air Combat Command Environmental Analysis web site: www.cevp.com

Alaska	Florida	Idaho	Virginia
Anchorage - Alaska Court System	Bristol - Maxwell & Evelyn Harrell Memorial Library	Boise - Ada County Library	Accomack - Eastern Shore Public Library
Anchorage - Consortium Library, University of Alaska	Crestview - Robert L.F. Sikes Public Library	Boise - BLM Office	Amelia Courthouse - James L. Hamner Public Library
Aniak Public Library	DeFuniak Springs - Walton County Library	Boise - Idaho Legislative Library	Burkeville Public Library
Arctic Village - Old Community Hall	Destin Public Library	Boise - Idaho State Library	Cape Charles Library
Bethel - Kuskokwim Consortium Library	Eglin AFB Library	Boise Public Library	Chincoteague Island Library
Chalkyitsik - Village Council Building	Fort Walton Beach Library	Boise State University Library	Crewe Town Library
Circle Hot Springs Resort	Lynn Haven Public Library	Buhl Public Library	Eggleston Public Library
Delta Community Public Library	Marianna - Panhandle Public Library Cooperative System	Burley Public Library	Farmville Public Library
Denali National Park Library	Mary Esther Public Library	Twin Falls - BLM Office	Hampden Sydney - Eggleston Library
Dillingham Public Library	Niceville Public Library	Caldwell Public Library	Burkeville Public Library
Eagle School Library	Niceville - Okaloosa-Walton Community College Library	East Owyhee County Library District	Cape Charles Library
Fairbanks - Noel Wien Public Library	Panama City - Bay County Public Library	Fairfield - Camas County Library	Chesapeake Public Library
Fairbanks - Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska	Panama City - Gulf Coast Community College Library	Filer Public Library	Hampton Public Library and branches
Fort Yukon - Native Village Building	Panama City Beach - Robert L. Young Public Library	Fort Hall - Shoshone-Bannock Library	Newport News Public Library and branches
Glennallen - Copper Valley Community Library	Port St. Joe - Gulf County Public Library	Glenns Ferry Public Library	Poquoson Public Library
Juneau - Alaska State Library	Tallahassee - Florida State Library	Gooding Public Library	York County Libraries
McGrath Community School Library	Tallahassee - Florida State University	Hailey Public Library	Virginia Beach Public Library
North Pole Public Library	Tyndall AFB Library	Jerome Public Library	Williamsburg Public Library
Palmer Public Library	Valparaiso Community Library	Kimberly Public Library	North Carolina
Sleetmute School Library		Kuna School Community Library	Hatteras Library
Talkeetna Public Library		Marsing - Lizard Butte Library	Manteo - Dare County Library
Tok Public Library		Mountain Home AFB Library	Kill Devil Hills Library
Venetie - Tribal Council Office		Mountain Home Public Library	
Wasilla Public Library		Rupert - Demary Memorial Library	
		Shoshone - BLM Office	
		Shoshone District Library	
		Twin Falls - College of Southern Idaho Library	
		Twin Falls Public Library	
		Nevada	
		Elko - BLM Office	
		Owyhee - Duck Valley Reservation	
		Winnemucca - BLM Office	
		Winnemucca - Humbolt Library	
		Oregon	
		Burns - Harney County Library	
		Jordan Valley City Hall	
		Ontario - Malheur County Library	
		Salem - Oregon State Library	
		Vale Public Library	



Do You Have Any Questions?

If you would like additional information, please contact:

**Headquarters Air Combat Command
Public Affairs (HQ ACC/PA)
(757) 764-5007**



Be sure to visit Air Combat Command's Environmental Analysis website to view the Draft EIS, this newsletter, and other related materials at [**www.cevp.com**](http://www.cevp.com)

HQ ACC/CEVP
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Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769
Attn: Ms. Brenda Cook